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is an appearance only as far as the number of pods on a single spike is concerned ; but something more in another way ; it increases the number of spikes on a branchlet, all of them fruitful. One such specimen has a stem half an inch thick at the base, one fifth of an inch thick three inches above the base, and is ten inches high. Its head, or bushy top, is about five inches in height by seven in diameter, and is one mass of filled-out pods. The leaves are generally linear, with here and there a perceptible notch, rarely as much as a quarter of an inch long, and generally not more than a tenth of an inch. Their width is about one twenty-fifth of an inch. Branches, small and scattering, spring from the base just at the ground.

The other form has also a thickened stem and minute leaves ; but the fruit is generally stunted and abortive, if it has not already dropped off. The general appearance of the plant is thick and wiry, here and there a starved and flattened pod appearing along the stem among the abortive flower-remnants or the empty peduncles that have dropped their flowers. Each stem seems to keep a minute tuft of flowers at the end, to the last. Each spike before it elongates or opens, has the appearance of a minute plantain head, a little suggestive also of a young asparagus shoot. These spikes are small however, being about one sixth of an inch long by one twentieth of an inch in diameter.

They reminded me very strongly of some plants of the huckleberry tribe which I found on Long Island years ago, while Dr. Torrey was still alive, very depauperate in everything else ; but the flowers and fruit preternaturally enlarged by the influence of some insect or fungus. I don't remember to what species those bushes belonged ; but I brought some specimens to the Club, when Dr. Torrey took charge of them. They may be the *Vaccinium* which a recent communication to the *BULLETIN* speaks of as exhibiting the same phenomenon, or they may have been *Gaylussacia*. The flowers and fruit were as large as those of a moderately sized cherry.

I. H. H.

§ 353. **A brief contribution to the Mycological-Flora of the United States,**

By F. BARON THUEMEN.

1. ***Puccinia lateripēs*** Berk. et Rav. in *Grevillea* III. p. 52.—Ad folia viva *Dizygandrae streptentis* Meissn. St. Louis, Mo. Leg. Eggert.

2. ***Puccinia Gentianae*** Lk. in Linne, *Spec. plant. c. Willd.* VI. 2. p. 73.—Ad folia viva *Gentianae puberulae* Mchx. Plymouth, Iowa. Leg. E. Jones.

3. ***Aecidium Hamiltoniae*** Thuem. *nov. spec.*—Aec. caespitibus hypophyllis, rarissime amphyigenis, sparsis, irregularibus, in foliorum pagina superiore maculam ferrugineam formans ; pseudoperidiis densis, dilute flavidis, parvis, cupulaeformibus, ore crenulato, tenui ; sporis polyedris vel irregulariter ovoideis, dilute flavescentibus vel achrois, episporo reticulato punctulatoque, tenui, 30–40 mm. long., 16–22 mm. crass.

In *Hamiltoniae umbellatae* Spr. (*Comandrae umbellatae* Nutt.) foliis vivis. St. Louis, Mo. Leg. Eggert.

4. *Coleosporium ochraceum* Bon. Spec. Coniomycet., p. 20.—Ad *Agrimoniae parviflorae* Ait. folia viva. St. Louis, Mo. Leg. Eggert.

5. *Coleosporium Solidaginis* Thuem. in Torrey Botan. Club Bulletin VI. p. 216.—In foliis vivis *Solidaginis* sempervirentis Lin. St. Louis, Mo. Leg. Engelmann.

6. *Phyllosticta cruenta*, Kickx. Rech. Fl. mycol. Flandre IV, p. 22—Ad *Polygonati racemosi* Monch. folia languida. St. Louis, Mo. Leg. Eggert.

7. *Phyllosticta cornicola*, Rabh. in Klotzsch, Herb. mycol. Ser. I. No. 454.—In *Corni sericei* L'Herit. foliis vivis. Grinnell, Iowa. Leg. E. Jones.

8. *Septoria Pileae*, Thuem. *nov spec.*—S. peritheciis epiphyllis, sparsis vel solitariis, mediis, hemisphaerico-applanatis, subemersis, nigris in macula irregularia, arescendo sordide ochro-grisea, latissime fusco-olivaceo cincta, subtus concolori; sporis bacillaribus, minime arcuatulis, continuis, utrinque acutatis, hyalinis, 22–24 mm. long., 1.5–2 mm. crass.—A *Septoria Urticae* Desm. valde differt sporis duplo brevioribus, continuis, anucleatis.

Ad *Pileae pumilae* Gray folia viva. St. Louis, Mo. Leg. Eggert.

§ 354. **Fern Etchings.** By JOHN WILLIAMSON, author of "Ferns of Kentucky," Louisville, Ky. John P. Morton & Co., Publishers.

The title of this handsome book does not sufficiently indicate its true character, as, by adopting the geographical range of Gray's Manual for its basis, and accompanying his plates with concise descriptions, the author has really given us a valuable, and to the amateur collector an indispensable hand-book of the ferns—with the single exception of *Adiantum Capillus-Veneris*, the recent discovery of which in Virginia was known too late for insertion—in the Northern, Middle and Eastern States.

The Plates are bona-fide etchings, printed directly from the original copper plates, and show a marked superiority over the lithographic transfers in the author's previous work.

The drawings are life-like and beautiful. The author has instinctively caught the very life and spirit of the ferns themselves, and reproduced them so naturally that they almost seem to live and grow.

The texture of the different species is admirably expressed, that of *Trichomanes radicans*, *Dicksonia*, and *Aspidium Lonchitis* being especially finely indicated. The smaller species furnish excellent examples of the author's artistic ability, while some of the larger ones show a positive genius for representing a mere section of a huge fern in such a manner as to convey an accurate idea of the character of the whole.

The plates are perhaps as well printed as could be expected from one inexperienced in the niceties of art required for this kind of work, but the clear and handsome manner in which some of them are executed makes the careless handling which has seriously marred the beauty of others all the more to be regretted, and it would have been better if the numbers at the top could have been placed elsewhere, or left off altogether.

The descriptions, with two or three exceptions, are those of Prof. Eaton, taken either from "Gray's Manual" or "Ferns of North America," and in that eminent author's usual clear style.